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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9538  
INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0591  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1921

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISHKEK 000538

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (GEHRENBECK), IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA, EUR/PGI  
DEPT PASS TO UNDER SECRETARY NICHOLAS BURNS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/10/2017

TAGS: PHUM RPEL UNHRC KG  
SUBJECT: KYRGYZ FEEDBACK ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTION

REF: A. STATE 63345  
B. STATE 58056

Classified By: Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) Emboff raised reftel issues with Kyrgyz MFA representative Erkin Atabekov May 10. Atabekov said the MFA had not yet consulted with its New York mission to discuss the election, and seemed unaware of reftel A point that Kyrgyzstan is "not eligible" to vote in the election. However, he added that Bosnia and Slovenia would be suitable candidates for the vacancies on the Human Rights Council. Atabekov noted that, "in general, we would prefer not to vote for Uzbekistan or Belarus."

Comment

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¶2. (C) While Kyrgyzstan is reportedly ineligible to vote in this election, Atabekov's comment about not voting for Belarus or Uzbekistan may not reflect future Kyrgyz actions. Kyrgyzstan has the option to abstain in the future, but in all likelihood, Kyrgyzstan may find it difficult to abandon its former Soviet comrades, especially if Russia insists.

YOVANOVITCH